



## NOTES OF A MEETING HELD ON

31.01.2011

**Venue: Stroud Youth Centre**

### YOUTH COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP:

#### **VOTING MEMBERS**

Beth Jones, Cam & Dursley YF  
 Kamila Gebicka, Cam & Dursley YF  
 Kit Powell, Thomas Keble  
 Alex Buckley, Thomas Keble  
 Robin Ellis-Cockcroft\*\*, Stroud Town YF  
 Rosemary Dickinson\*, Stroud Town YF  
 Kieran Chadwick, Archway  
 Lynford Short, Archway  
 Emma Sankey, Katharine Lady Berkeley  
 Lindsey Driver, Rednock  
 Kathryn White, Rednock  
 Roxy Mould, Vale of Berkeley College  
 Blake Hewer, Vale of Berkeley College  
 Annie Pickering, Stonehouse VoYS  
 (Rudi) Blue Morgan, Stroud College  
 Charlotte-Louise Grigg, Stroud College  
 Chloe Boulton, Wotton under Edge YF  
 Laura Forrester, Wotton under Edge YF  
 Millie Gardiner, Maidenhill  
 Jordan Wilson, Maidenhill  
 Rob Sidwell, Marling  
 Max Feedman, Marling

#### **EX-OFFICIO**

Thomas Lydon, Marling  
 Becky Batting, Cam & Dursley YF  
 Izzy Holley

#### **DEPUTY MEMBERS**

P	Laurie Watts, Cam & Dursley YF	P
P	Jess Lyons-Lynch, Cam & Dursley YF	P
P	Luka Chadwick, Archway	P
Ap	Charlotte Smith, Archway	P
P	Jens Newton, Thomas Keble	P
P	Ellen Wightman, Thomas Keble	P
P	Kirsty Driver, Vale of Berkeley College	Ap
P	Jasmin Walker, Vale of Berkeley College	A
P	Tom Williams, Rednock	P
P	Izzie Lee, Wotton under Edge YF	Ap
P	Abi Lee, Wotton under Edge YF	P
Ap	Lydia Stephens, Maidenhill	A
P	Neil Bond, Maidenhill	P
P	Dave Holder, Stroud College	A
A	Jakob Sparrow, Stroud College	A

#### **CO-OPTIONS**

A
Ap
A

\*\* = Chair    \* = Vice-Chair    P = present

A = absent    Ap = apology

#### **OTHERS PRESENT**

Steve Miles, Senior Hear By Right Youth Officer, SDC  
 Helen Smith, Youth Support Worker, Sub-Contracted from GCC Youth Service  
 Jemma Grieve, Youth Worker, GCC Youth Service

## **Welcome & Apologies**

The Chair welcomed members and visitors to the meeting particularly two newly elected members from Marling, Rob Sidwell and Max Freedman. Apologies were received from Kirsty Driver, Roxy Mould, Becky Batting, Izzie Lee and Alex Buckley.

## **Minutes of Last Meeting – 10 January 2011**

Steve apologised for not being able to mail out these in advance, this was due to administration pressures. The minutes were read through and agreed as being an accurate record.

## **Matters Arising**

### **Members Team Building Event - Update**

Steve highlighted the huge 'bottle neck' of work at present (in relation to item 7) as the reason for little progress being made on this. The intention was still to consider dates in the half term break - a letter explaining date options will be sent to members and parents in which to indicate preference and level of commitment. It was noted that a high number attendee's would be required to make this viable.

### **Young Peoples Focus Groups – Consultation Event on 24 January; Feedback**

Members gave feedback which included the following comments; *Made me realise there's nothing we could do; being asked our opinions was a tag on to the process; it just ticked a box for them; it felt very tokenistic; they were talking at us not to us; some questions couldn't be answered.* An email from Frances Morgan, Area Manager of GCC Youth Support Service thanked members for their input. Youth Workers present at the event had commented that the questioning by young people was very articulate and well thought out and didn't involve them. It was agreed that the event should have been at the front end of the process and not at the rear. Evaluation forms were given to members – these were completed by those that attended.

### **Green Project Group: Operation Blackout - Annie**

Annie reported that whilst most things now in place to carry out an audit, Ebley Mill would not be a worthwhile site to visit at night to check on lighting, as all internal lights were now motion sensitive. However visits to other SDC owned sites may be viable – she would continue to pursue this with the relevant SDC officer. A question was raised to the future contract for Leisure Services at Stratford Park, Kieran agreed to find this out in his youth cabinet role.

### **Report from Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) Report - Kit**

Kit gave a report on the recent Neighbourhood Watch meeting which Tom & Millie also attended. Following advice from SDYC members, a successful meeting was had with Duke of Edinburgh Awards and reference to this future link up was now on the NHW website. An interesting presentation on energy efficiency was also received.

## **Correspondence**

### ***Fags and Me Theatre Workshop***

An interactive theatre workshop exploring the issues of smoking and how to stop, is touring the area three days a week from January to March. This was promoted to members with view to a possible event being held in Stroud and/or a local secondary school. Costs were £249 - £299. Comments were needed within the next few days.

### **Stroud Access Group**

A reminder about the Stroud Access Group meeting on 16 March was given – Robin and Millie agreed to join Kit and Rosie in attending. An overview of the groups work was also made.

### **The Youth Variety Show**

A group of young talented young performers are putting on a series of shows in the Stroud area in February and March. The events sponsored by Young Minds the mental health charity, are to be held

in Nailsworth, Minchinhampton and Stroud towns - Members were encouraged to attend.

### **Gym Membership Offer**

The Fifth Dimension Health and Fitness Centre, opposite Ebley Mill have changed their membership policy to enable access to young people aged 15 and over to join. Contact details are available to those interested.

### **Anti Bullying Awards**

Steve highlighted an awards event scheduled for 17 March regarding anti bullying projects with links to UNICEF, in the following schools; KLB, Marling, Archway and Thomas Keble – this was raised at a recent Hate Crime & Incident Group. Members were asked to enquire about it and give feedback at the next meeting.

### **Cashes Green Hospital Site Development**

Members were made aware of the progress surrounding a development project on the old Cashes Green Hospital site. The project group consisting of HAB Oakus (i.e. Kevin McCloud, Grand Designs) & Gloucestershire Land for People and other organisations are still keen to involve young people as part of ongoing consultation with the community (previous enquires have not led to input of young people). The potential for redeveloping the youth centre was highlighted. Whilst SDYC don't have reps from that community, it was noted a few members do live in area - Annie, Neil & Kieran expressed interest and requested more information.

### **Stratford Park Skate Park Lighting**

A potential new project has emerged regarding the lighting at the Skate Park in Stroud. The opportunity is for a small group to work with SDC Public Space Service to consider if, what and how new lighting should be installed. Some research work done so far, but no input from young people or users has taken place. Stroud Town Youth Forum agreed to undertake this short term project.

### **Update from Schools, Colleges and Local Youth Forums**

*Vale of Berkeley College* – Blake reported that student's council had not met recently, however they visited Houses of Parliament recently and spoke with Stroud MP, Neil Carmichael regarding Education Maintenance Allowance, and also briefly met David Milliband MP. They attended Prime Ministers Question Time in the public gallery.

*Rednock* – Lindsey reported that initial feedback from their Ofsted inspection was *satisfactory*. Kathryn added that work on a mission statement was being made. Tom highlighted that £4000 had been raised sometime ago would go to a range of charities including Help for Hero's.

*Thomas Keble* – Kit reported that had students agreed to deliver presentations on student participation to all year groups via their assemblies – yr 7's would be first. The schools Bullying Charter now agreed and in use. Future elections to SDYC were discussed; encouragement was given towards holding them in May to take effect from September.

*Katharine Lady Berkeley* – Nothing to report.

*Archway* – Lynford reported that following the Ofsted inspection the school was now under *special measures*, however their was confidence that improvements could be made immediately.

*Voice of Young Stonehouse* – Annie reported on their work with Wycliffe College as part of a joint project. Some thoughts had been given to the impact of cuts to youth work, with the possibility of moving the 'pod' to another area in the town.

*Marling* – Max and Rob (supported by Robin) highlighted the work of the schools Environmental Forum including the Young Energy People (YEP) project with South West Energy Agency. They are also developing a hot composting system and will be involved again in Tripswitch this year. News on a trip to USA was also noted.

*Cam & Dursley Youth Forum* – Laurie highlighted that members attended the recent protest march and rally in Stroud regarding the cuts in public services – the main focus has been getting signatures for the Petition.

*Wotton under Edge Youth Forum* – Abi reported that they would be meeting tomorrow with the Town Trust to discuss cuts to youth work including probable loss of youth centre building and youth workers.

*Maidenhill* – Millie reported that school council is now functioning as usual following recent elections. She added that Jordan and her had been re-elected by students in their year. The new Sports Hall was open and in use.

*Stroud Town Youth Forum* – Rosie reported that the group hadn't met recently but with a new project (see Correspondence) one would be co-ordinated soon.

### **Tripswitch 2011 – presentation from Helen Royal**

Helen explained that Tripswitch is a partnership between a large number of groups and organisations involved in promoting 'green transport'. It developed from the Changing Gear Initiative in local schools and would again be held in June as in previous years. Previously each week had a theme, however this year schools would only focus on two weeks. An overview of activities was shared with photos evidencing the emphasis on fun and creative ways people could get about. As a result of the project work done by the partnership, improvements to cycle tracks by GCC & SDC have followed. Helen highlighted that the money raised for charity went to help provide bikes to young people in Liberia. A *Back to Bike* scheme whereby bikes are recycled/repaired/ adapted is available for the public as well as a scheme that allows students to be hire bikes short term is also available – Cytek cycle shop was the best contact for this. Public transport week is also being planned, hopefully with support from bus service companies – the aim is to enable concessionary fares for young people up to 18 rather 16 as at present. Information was given out on organisational aspects in schools with the emphasis on students leading this rather than tutors. Robin suggested that in addition to the reps from SDYC who attend the Tripswitch meetings, other primary contacts for each school should be SDYC reps, the following were agreed, TK – Elly, Rednock – Kathryn, Archway – Lynford.

### **Proposed Cuts to Youth Service**

Helen updated members on the number of petition that was asking GCC to increase its offer to districts to enable youth work to be delivered at an acceptable level - signatures have been collated as a result of the work by CDYF, WuEYF and SDYC – a total of 1987 had been received and would be delivered to Shire hall, Gloucester on 1 February. It was noted that the target was 5000 in which to allow the issue to be debated at the GCC Cabinet meeting; however some projects from non represented areas of the district did not support or participate. Members were congratulated on their efforts throughout and it was hoped the impact of the work would still be made locally.

### **Future of Youth Participation in Stroud district**

Steve reminded members of the affects the aforementioned cuts would have on youth work delivery in youth centres, clubs and communities in the district. Delivery will remain until 30 June, however some part time workers will finish end of March. The proposed new service will begin on 1 July and will not feature youth participation. Redundancies will be made to youth work staff, however new structures and positions are not yet known. All existing youth forums will be affected and concern over their future facilitation is of universal concern - Steve highlighted that he is unable to facilitate them on his own. However it was agreed the positives include youth participation still being an important focus for SDC as reported at previous SDYC meetings, and the hope that the £50,000 being given to district councils together with local funding from parishes will enable youth forums to be maintained.

### **Youth Cabinet Report**

Lindsey reported that dates for shadowing were discussed and would be confirmed in due course.

## **10 Anniversary Committee – progress report**

Lindsey reported that the committee proposed that Sunday 20 March as the new date for the Showcase Event as it was suitable for the majority involved – this was unanimously agreed. Facebook communication has begun with ex-members, in the hope a reunion element would emerge. The format of the event would focus on a market style stall aspect for organizations who've either supported SDYC or been supported by SDYC through the Youth Initiative Fund and a main stage showcase of performances, presentations and speakers covering the last ten years. Sponsorship was also discussed. It was emphasised that every current members (voting & deputy) would need to be in attendance on the day. The key note speaker would be confirmed as Bill Badham from Practical Participation (co-author of *Hear by Right*). A huge amount of work by the committee would be continued and be the main focus of SDYC for the next two months.

### **Any Other Business**

Lindsey highlighted that as a result of discussions between young people at the aforementioned recent consultation event, a particular group of young people had been identified as needing to have their voices heard. She suggested that Young Carers should be considered for representation as a Co-option to SDYC. Rosie explained that Young Carers were young people whom look after or care for relative's full time, as well as remain in education or training. It was agreed to pursue this and discuss at the next meeting.

Robin reported that he had attended an unemployment focus group as part of his role with the Local Strategic Partnership, the group focused on skills required in industries and the need to give support to those young people not in employment or training.

ASDAN Activities Awards – members who attended the autumn training residential received award certificates for the work they did during the four day event.

Calendars of Festival and Events for 2011 were available for every member to display.

Boredom Busters – leaflets on what things are available for young people to do or places to go in the Stroud town area were given out to respective members in which to promote/pass on.

Domestic Abuse stickers were given out; members were encouraged to ask if schools could display these at appropriate points with their buildings.

**Date of the next meeting was confirmed as being Monday 28 February 2011 at Stroud Youth Centre, Stroud, 4.30pm.**